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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2039
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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1869
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 004702

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DOD FOR OSD/APSA SEDNEY/HILL/BASALLA; USFJ FOR
J00/J01/J1/J3/J4/J5

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/05/2017

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: U.S. STATEMENT ON JAPAN'S OEF REFUELING OPERATION

REF: BASALLA OCTOBER 5 EMAIL

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Joe Donovan for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

11. (C) On October 5 Charge spoke with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Vice Minister for Foreign Policy Chikao Kawai to discuss U.S. plans to clarify press allegations of misuse of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) fuel contributions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Kawai thanked the U.S. for the draft statement (ref) and said that it was generally acceptable, but the Japanese side had proposed some modifications in the language. In response, Charge explained that the U.S. would continue to work with the Japanese on the release of the statement. He underscored the importance of publicly issuing the statement in its entirety to ensure that the comprehensive explanation is available to the press in Japan. Charge said that the U.S. is prepared to coordinate with the Japanese on timing. Kawai agreed in principle with this approach.

12. (C) In a separate conversation with MOD Director General for Operational Policy Nobushige Takamizawa, Charge reiterated the same points. Takamizawa agreed with the U.S. on releasing the statement in its entirety, but was unsure of the timing. Takamizawa mentioned that Defense Minister Ishiba would appear on the widely-watched Sunday news program "Sunday Project" on October 7. Takamizawa said his minister would be grilled on OEF refueling operations and wished to avoid responding that the U.S. had not yet provided a response.

13. (C) DG Takamizawa promised to talk to Defense Minister Ishiba and get back in touch. Vice Minister Kawai also promised to reengage with the embassy following the Ishiba meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of October 5.
DONOVAN